[31st July 1965

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We are collecting the amount according to the agreement between the company and ourselves. We were very keen that the factory should go into production. That is why we gave them some little time. It could have been easy to collect it by selling it. But we wanted that the factory should go into production. Therefore, we gave them time to make the payment.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the company is in a position to run the factory?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am very happy to say that the company is now in a position to run it and it is expected that it will go into production in the course of the next month.

Availability of Copper in the State

* 12. *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the districts of the State that have been surveyed by the Geological Survey of India or the State Government for the existence of copper ; and

(*b*) the details thereof ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What steps have the Government taken to establish factories for this purpose?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The first stage of investigation in Mamandur area near Kallakurichi is now over. The Government are now satisfied that there is a workable mine in that area. We will have to take further steps by finding foreign exchange, collaboration, etc., in order to exploit this.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Is there enough copper in our State?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Copper is a scarce commodity not only in India but in the whole world.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the quantum of copper that the Government expect from these districts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The quantum of ore available is given in the statement. We expect that the percentage of copper may be about 2, and we will have to work out on that basis.

DR. H. V. HANDE : How much copper is allotted to our State?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A separate question with regard to the allotment may be put.

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a Printed as Appendix I on pages 83.